

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES.

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A Report of the Director of the Mint, showing the Operations of that institution during the year 1837.

JANUARY 17, 1838.

Read, and laid upon the table.

To the House of Representatives :

I herewith transmit a report from the Director of the Mint, showing the operations of that institution during the year 1837; and, also, the progress made towards the completion of the branch mints, in North Carolina, Georgia, and Louisiana.

M. VAN BUREN.

JANUARY 16, 1838.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,

Philadelphia, January 13, 1838.

SIR : In compliance with the law which requires that, "in the month of January of every year, the Director shall make report to the President of the United States of the operations of the Mint and its branches for the year preceding," I have the honor to submit to you the following statement :

The coinage executed in 1837 has amounted to \$3,299,898 ; comprising \$1,148,305 in gold, \$2,096,010 in silver, and \$55,583 in copper, and composed of 13,010,721 pieces of coin. (Statement A.)

The deposits of gold within the year amounted to \$1,145,000; of which only \$282,000 was derived from the mines of the United States. (Statements B and C.)

The necessities of the circulation having required a large amount of small coins, the proportion of such coins struck in 1837 greatly exceeds
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that of any former year; the number of pieces of less value than the half dollar being more than nine millions. (Tabular statement D.)

The laws authorizing deposits with the Mint of public funds, "for the purchase of bullion for coinage," and "for enabling the Mint to make the returns to depositors with as little delay as possible," have proved of great benefit in our own operations, and, during the late derangements in the currency, of great importance to the public interests. At the close of the year there was in our vaults, on these accounts, the amount of \$789,218 73 in gold and silver; and there had been withdrawn, on Treasury drafts, coins to the amount of \$176,449 08.

The increased efficiency of the Mint, and the possession of the Government deposits, have enabled us, during the past year, for the first time, to avoid the delays to which we were formerly forced to subject depositors of bullion, and to make returns to them in coins as soon as the value of their deposits could be ascertained. I have, therefore, on this occasion, the satisfaction to report that not a single dollar of deposits made before the close of the year remains unpaid.

The machinery of the New Orleans branch mint was executed, and the steam-engine set in action, in May last; and there would have been no difficulty in putting the mint in full operation, but for the apprehensions from the climate. Two of the officers and all the workmen were from the Middle States, and unacclimated; and I was advised by the resident officers that they would incur great risk in going to New Orleans in the warm season. The occurrence of a fatal epidemic, soon after, proved that these apprehensions were too well founded; and the officers and men from this place were thereby prevented from reaching New Orleans before the beginning of December. They are now, however, all at their stations, and making every exertion to commence the operations of the mint at an early day.

The machinery for the branch mint at Charlotte, North Carolina, was shipped to Charleston in April; and, in the following month, competent workmen were sent forward to put it in operation. Great delay and difficulty occurred, however, in transporting the heavy machinery to Charlotte, so that the steam-engine was not set in action until the middle of August.

The machinery for the branch mint at Dahlonega, in Georgia, was sent to Savannah in May, and difficulty and delay also occurred in its transportation thence by land. After the workmen employed at Charlotte had finished their task, they proceeded to Dahlonega, to erect the machinery there; and they completed this work early in November.

To put up the furnaces and refineries of these mints, masons were sent from Philadelphia; and, in order that this important part of the work might be properly executed, as well as for the purpose of giving advice and aid in other essential points, one of the officers of this Mint was requested to go to Charlotte and Dahlonega; and I have reason to believe that his visit was of great importance.

The mint building at New Orleans is completed, so far as is necessary for the mint operations; only one of the wings, intended for the residence of the officers, being unfinished. The mint at Dahlonega is nearly completed, except as to the enclosure and out-buildings. The mint at Charlotte is entirely finished, and has commenced operations, so far as to be

receiving deposits and assaying. The certificates of this branch are, for the present, paid here; so that it may, in this way, retain gold to furnish a fund, for the purpose of enabling it hereafter to make prompt payments on the spot, for the bullion that may be furnished for coinage.

In consequence of the location of the new mints in places where there are no manufactories and few mechanical resources, it has been necessary to send from here every article of machinery and apparatus, many even of the ordinary materials, and all the workmen required for erecting the machinery, furnaces, refineries, and other fixtures. If, therefore, there has been much delay in getting these mints in operation, it is but just to observe that the task presented peculiar difficulties. The delay, moreover, has been accompanied by one important advantage: since it has given full opportunity to the officers and the principal hands to perfect themselves in their respective departments, by actual practice in this Mint; so that, when they begin their operations at the branches, the public may have confidence in their ability to discharge them with skill and accuracy.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your faithful servant,
 R. M. PATTERSON,
Director of the Mint.

To the PRESIDENT of the United States.

Tabular statement of the amount of coinage at the Mint of the United States, in the several denominations of coin, since the commencement of its operations until the 31st of December, 1837, inclusive.

Periods.	Eagles.	Half Eagles.	Quarter Eagles.	Dollars.	Half Dollars.	Quarter Dollars.	Dimes.	Half Dimes.
1793	}	2,795	8,707	—	204,791	323,144	—	86,416
1794								
1795								
1796								
1797		6,934	6,196	963	72,920	3,918	5,894	22,135
1798		8,323	3,609	859	7,776	—	252	25,261
1799		7,974	24,867	614	327,536	—	—	27,550
1800		17,483	7,451	480	423,515	—	—	21,760
1801		25,965	11,622	—	220,920	—	—	24,000
1802		29,254	26,006	—	54,454	30,289	—	34,640
1803		15,090	53,176	2,612	41,650	29,890	—	10,975
1804		8,979	38,506	423	66,064	31,715	—	33,040
1805		9,795	30,475	3,327	19,570	156,519	6,738	8,265
1806		—	33,183	1,781	321	211,722	121,394	120,780
1807		—	64,093	1,616	—	839,576	206,124	15,600
1808		—	84,093	6,812	—	1,051,576	220,643	165,000
1809		—	55,578	2,710	—	1,368,600	—	—
1810		—	33,875	—	—	1,405,810	—	44,710
1811		—	100,287	—	—	1,276,276	—	6,355
1812		—	99,581	—	—	1,203,644	—	65,180
1813		—	58,087	—	—	1,628,059	—	—
1814		—	95,428	—	—	1,241,903	—	—
1815		—	15,454	—	—	1,039,075	—	421,500

[Doc. No. 110.]

1815	—	635	—	—	—	69,232	—	—
1816	—	—	—	—	47,150	20,003	—	—
1817	—	—	—	—	1,215,567	—	—	—
1818	—	48,588	—	—	1,960,322	361,174	—	—
1819	—	51,723	—	—	2,208,000	144,000	—	—
1820	—	263,806	—	—	751,122	127,444	942,587	—
1821	—	34,641	6,448	—	1,305,797	216,851	1,186,512	—
1822	—	17,796	—	—	1,559,573	64,080	100,000	—
1823	—	14,485	—	—	1,694,200	17,800	440,000	—
1824	—	17,340	2,600	—	3,504,954	—	—	—
1825	—	29,060	4,434	—	2,943,166	168,000	510,000	—
1826	—	18,069	760	—	4,004,180	—	—	—
1827	—	24,913	2,800	—	5,493,400	4,000	1,215,000	—
1828	—	28,029	—	—	3,075,200	102,000	125,000	—
1829	—	57,442	3,403	—	3,712,156	—	770,000	1,230,000
1830	—	126,351	4,540	—	4,764,800	—	510,000	1,240,000
1831	—	140,594	4,520	—	5,873,660	398,000	771,350	1,242,700
1832	—	157,487	4,400	—	4,797,000	320,000	522,500	965,000
1833	—	193,630	4,160	—	5,206,000	156,000	485,000	1,370,000
1834	—	732,169	117,370	—	6,412,004	286,000	635,000	1,480,000
1835	—	371,534	131,402	—	5,352,006	1,952,000	1,410,000	2,760,000
1836	—	553,147	547,986	1,000	6,546,200	472,000	1,190,000	1,900,000
1837	—	207,121	45,080	—	3,629,820	252,400	1,042,000	2,276,000

[Doc. No. 110.]

1838	✓ 132,592	✓ 3,933,834	✓ 902,100	✓ 1,440,517	✓ 87,897,993	✓ 5,692,029	✓ 12,862,100	✓ 14,729,243
839	38,242	118,143	27,321	300	8,334,561	491,116	1,655,115	1,069,152
	178,040	4,338,565	976,151	1,440,817	94,778,554	7,015,775	15,907,715	18,053,393